Export of village produced goods

4433. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to push exports of village produced goods, by grant of deemed Export Promotion Council status to the Village Industries Commission, to ensure all-inclusive growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this initiative would create employment for lakhs of women and the rural poor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Khadi and Village Industries Commission was granted deemed Export Promotion Council status on 11.12.2006. This would enable KVIC to take various initiatives for export promotion. Increase in KVIC's exports would create additional employment opportunities for women and the rural poor.

Designating special products at Doha Round

4434. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which farm commodities would be designated as Special Products in the ongoing negotiations of the WTO's Doha Round; and

(b) how would Government respond to the United States insistence that Special Products should be limited to "not more than the tariff lines"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Through the General Council Decision of 1 August, 2004 (the "Framework") and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of 18 December, 2005 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) it has been agreed that developing country Members will have the flexibility to self-designate an appropriate number of tariff lines as Special Products (SPs) guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. The G-33 alliance, of which India is a